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TVK chief and actor Vijay leaves the CBI headquarters in New Delhi after the second round of questioning over the Karur stampede on Monday | PTI | P7

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Nitin Nabin unopposed candidate for BJP prez

The 45-year-old leader is youngest ever to take the hot seat

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR
@ New Delhi

NITIN Nabin, 45, on Monday emerged as the unopposed candidate for the BJP national president. A formal announcement on his election will be made on Tuesday. A five-term Bihar MLA and currently the party's national working president, Nabin will be the youngest to occupy the top seat. He will succeed veteran leader J P Nadda.

His candidature was backed by top leaders including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. On Monday, in line with organisational rules, outgoing party chief Nadda and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh handed over Nabin's nomination papers to K Laxman, the returning officer for the election, at the party's central office. Thereafter, Arunachal CM Pema Khandu and BJP leaders from Bihar, Andhra, Maharashtra, Assam, and Jharkhand submitted papers in his support. In all, 37 sets of papers favouring Nabin were filed, paving the way for his unopposed election as the BJP's 12th national president.

Nabin is taking over at a crucial time as he will have to lead the party through the Assembly elections in West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala.

The first BJP chief to hail from Bihar, Nabin has travelled extensively across states since becoming BJP working president on December 14, 2025. During his interactions with cadre, his common message has been to become full-time politicians and give their 100% to serve people.

He entered mainstream politics in 2006, when the BJP fielded him from the Patna West Assembly constituency following the death of his father Navin Kishore Sinha, who had close ties with the RSS.

Outgoing BJP chief J P Nadda, Union Ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari and Kiren Rijiju, and other senior leaders proposing the name of Nitin Nabin for BJP National President during the nomination process, at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi on Monday | PTI

Reveal logical discrepancy list in WB: SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi/Kolkata

THE Supreme Court on Monday directed the Election Commission of India to publicly display names of 1.25 crore voters flagged for "logical discrepancies" at gram panchayat offices, block headquarters, and ward offices in the state.

Logical discrepancies, linked to the 2002 voter list, include mismatches in parents' names and biologically implausible age gaps between voters and their parents (less than 15 years or exceeding 50 years).

A three-judge bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and justices Dipankar Datta and Joymalya Bagchi said those likely to be affected by the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in West Bengal should be allowed to submit their documents or objections.

Directing that the exercise be conducted smoothly, the bench said, "Let us ensure that this exercise runs smoothly, it is timely completed by ensuring a transparent measure giving fair opportunity to all those who feel because of some discrepancy they are under unnecessary doubt."

Speaking at a rally in Barasat, TMC leader Abhishek Banerjee interpreted the Supreme Court's direction to the Election Commission as "slaps on faces of those who tried to deprive people of the fundamental right to vote."

JAISHANKAR WARNS POLAND

'Don't fuel terror in our neighbourhood'

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday delivered a blunt message to Poland, warning it not to take actions that help fuel terrorist infrastructure in India's neighbourhood.

"You are no stranger to our region and are certainly familiar with the long-standing challenge of cross-border terrorism," Jaishankar said in his televised opening remarks during talks with his Polish counterpart Radoslaw Sikorski in New Delhi. "Poland should display zero tolerance for terrorism and not help fuel the terrorist infrastructure in our neighbourhood."

The remarks reflect New Delhi's unease over a reference to Kashmir in a Poland-Pakistan joint statement, issued during Sikorski's visit to Islamabad in October, which went against India's position on the issue.

Jaishankar also criticised the West's "selective targeting" of India over New Delhi's energy ties with Moscow. Sikorski's three-day visit to India comes days ahead of a visit by the EU's top leadership to New Delhi.

RFO found dead on road, friend missing

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mysuru

A range forest officer (RFO) was found dead under mysterious circumstances on the crossroad near a private lodge on Mother Teresa Road near KSRTC Suburban Bus-stand here on Monday morning.

The police said the deceased, **Kantharaj Chauhan** (32), who hailed from Vijayapura, was serving at the Social Forestry Wing in T Narasipura. Chauhan was transferred to T Narasipura just 15 days ago and had recently rented a house at Sardar Vallabhai Patel Nagar in the city. P4

A video grab purportedly showing DGP K Ramachandra Rao with a woman inside his chamber

DGP lands in trouble over sleazy video

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka police were left red-faced after a video of a top cop in a compromising position with a woman in his office during duty hours went viral on Monday.

Director General of Police (DGP) K Ramachandra Rao, heading the Directorate of Civil Rights Enforcement (DCRE), was caught on camera while allegedly engaging in an intimate act with a woman while he was in uniform.

As the video went viral, the senior IPS officer termed the video "fabricated" and rushed to the residence of Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara. P7

It's ballot papers for GBA polls

MOHAMMED YACOOB
@ Bengaluru

IN a big development on local body elections to Bengaluru city, which is without an elected body since September 11, 2020, State Election Commissioner GS Sangreshi stated that ballot papers will be used for the elections to the five city corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA).

Releasing the draft voters' list to the five city corporations on Monday, he said the Supreme Court has upheld its decision to conduct elections through Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). At the same time, the ruling has not gone against the ballot system.

He appealed to eligible, unregistered voters to register themselves as there is a provision to do so till the last day of filing nomination papers by candidates.

Sangreshi said the Election Commission is an independent body and it is within its discretion to hold the elections under the ballot system. "I won't undermine EVMs, which are used for Assembly and parliament elections. After discussions with all the stakeholders, we decided to go for the ballot system. Even developed countries like the US use ballot paper," he explained. P2

88 lakh voters in city

As per the ward-wise draft voters' list for the five city corporations, released by the GBA on Monday, there are 88,91,411 voters in the city.

NEXT ICC OPTIONS

Forfeiture or Scotland in place of B'desh

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN
@ Chennai

THE International Cricket Council (ICC) continues to juggle multiple T20 World Cup related issues even though the event is now less than three weeks away. It's understood that multiple stakeholders are deep in conversation with respect to Bangladesh's insistence on not playing their games in India. If in case the ICC doesn't relent and Bangladesh withdraw, the world governing body has to consider the way forward. And time is very limited before the first set of matches on February 7.

It's understood that one of the ways could be a last minute invitation to Scotland to fill the Bangladesh-sized hole in Group C. Scotland, by virtue of being the highest-ranked team to not qualify for the event, will be one of the first teams to get a call. What adds to the intrigue is that when contacted by this daily, a Cricket Scotland source said they 'aren't commenting' on the matter. But do remember that Jersey finished higher than Scotland in the actual qualifiers but they are not expected to be an option.

The other option ICC has is a straightforward forfeit. That would mean that the other four teams in Group C essentially beginning the tournament with a win against their names. But that may not be palatable to the broadcasters who have spent a lot of money to secure the rights for this event. Lack of four live games results in a loss of revenue. If Scotland does come, the very lopsided nature of Group C — the other teams are England, West Indies, Nepal and Italy — could give a potential advantage to two of the former champions.

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